Decentralisation of procurement scheme

2668. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States still refuse to adopt the procurement decentralisation scheme which costs the Centre dearly on food subsidy bill;

(b) whether these States extract procurement taxes from FCI;

(c) whether Abhijit Sen panel has recommended doing away the practice of FCI acting as a conduit for transferring Central resources to States; and

(d) whether acceptance of such recommendation would yield a saving of more than Rs. 1000.00 crores on FCI procurement costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The High Level Committee, in its interim report has recommended that the statutory levies imposed by the State Governments on foodgrains should be eliminated and should be replaced by direct transfers from the Central Government to the State Governments.

The removal of statutory levies on foodgrains would result in a saving of over Rs. 1000 crores.

Storage capacity of FCI

2669. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1/3rd of the world's wheat and 1/4th of rice buffer stocks are held by India;

(b) whether 6.7 million tonnes of foodgrains are still stored in the open by FCI;

(c) what is the storage capacity held by FCI and its hired capacity

(those of State/central warehousing corporations/NAFED etc.); and

(d) what is the buffer foodgrains stocks with FCI at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. As per FAO FOOD OUT LOOK MAGAZINE (February, 2002), world stocks of wheat and rice have been estimated at 237.10 million tonnes and 114.00 million tonnes respectively as against the stock of wheat and rice 28.50 million tonnes (12.02% of estimated world stock) and 26.00 million tonnes (22.80% of estimated world stock) respectively in the Central Pool as on 28.2.2002.

(b) No, Sir. Only 5.06 million tonnes stock of foodgrains are stored by Food Corporation of India in CAP (open) as on 28.2.2002.

(c) At present, Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity of 35.65 million tonnes (ownes & Hired/Covered and CAP) all over the country as on 28.2.2002 as per details given below:—

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Agency	Storage Capacity Covered	CAP	Total
FCI Owned	12.67	2.34	15.01
Hired from State Government/CWC/SWCs & Private Parties	14.68	5.96	20.64
TOTAL	27.35	8.30	35.65

(d) The total stock position of foodgrains in Central pool as on 28.2.2002 is given as under:

(Figures in Lakh tonnes)

As on	Wheat	Rice	C.Grains	Total
28.2.2002	284.64	259.68	0.92	545.24